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Please deliver immediately following message to General de Gaulle from the President:

March 24, 1959

QTE/Dear General de Gaulle:

As promised in my letter of March 14 I want to give you a report of my conversations with Prime Minister Macmillan. We have had an extremely close and useful exchange of views and were successful in achieving our aim of a common appreciation of the dangers we face and a determination to stand firm in the face of threat.

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Only)

We discussed at length the matter of meetings with the Soviets. The Prime Minister gave me his impressions of the Soviets, particularly of Khrushchev, and informed me of his discussions with you. From this we went into a general study of the reply we should make to the Soviet note of March 2. This reply, of which you have by now received the text, takes into account the preoccupations which we both expressed in our recent exchange of letters

Drafted by: EUR:ITMerchant:mt
3/23/59 WE:LDBrown:esp

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by: S/S:JACalhoun

C - Mr. Reinhardt
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E.O. 12356, SEC. 3.4 (b)

The President (in draft)
The Acting Secretary (in draft) "UNCLASSIFIED"
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MR 85-27346
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letters. Without going into the details I believe that we are adopting the best possible posture, one of firmness and determination accompanied by a willingness to talk and to negotiate.

We agreed that considerable further work is required to perfect a comprehensive Western proposal and we suggest that the Working Group reconvene shortly after the NATO Ministerial Meeting. We hope that the Working Group will be able to give agreed recommendations to our governments no later than April 20. In the meantime our Foreign Ministers will have reviewed the Working Group's present report and will have had the opportunity to discuss these matters fully at their meetings here in Washington on March 31 and April 1.

The Prime Minister and I also confirmed our approval of the general principles underlying our plans to deal with possible contingencies relating to Berlin and access to that city. These studies are those which have been discussed tripartitely here in

Washington

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Washington and on which, I am sure, Ambassador Alphand has reported to you fully. We agreed that we can assume that in view of the possibility of negotiations beginning with the Soviets in May it is unlikely that the Soviets would take unilateral action with regard to West Berlinⁱⁿ the intervening period.

We covered a number of other subjects in our talks including appreciations of the situations in the Middle East and the Far East. I do not believe your appreciation of these situations would differ materially from ours. We also gave serious consideration to the implications to the Free World of the Soviet economic offensive.

In my letter of March 14 I mentioned the bipartite talks we have held here in Washington arising out of your letter to me of last September. I discussed the general subject with the Prime Minister and we both agreed that these talks are mutually profitable and that the discussion of Africa scheduled to begin on April 9 can serve an important purpose.

I am sure that unity among the three of us is, as you have stressed, essential to the Free World. It remains a leading objective of mine.

Please accept, Mr. President, the expression of my highest consideration and sincere friendship.

Dwight D. Eisenhower UNQUOTE

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